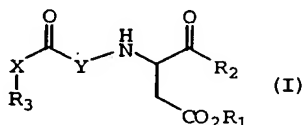


## Caspase Inhibitors and the Use Thereof

### *Abstract of the Disclosure*

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The present invention is directed to novel dipeptide thereof, represented by the general Formula I:



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where R<sub>1</sub>-R<sub>3</sub>, X and Y are defined herein. The present invention also relates to the discovery that compounds having Formula I are potent inhibitors of caspases and apoptotic cell death. Therefore, the inhibitors of this invention can retard or block cell death in a variety of clinical conditions in which the

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